



DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE

HORTICULTURE THE FARM

THE GARDEN

OF THE

RESIDENCE, RURAL LIFE

LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, &c.

NEWS &c.

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GET READY FOR WINTER.

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A FEW HINTS FOR THE LAST OF THE SEASON.

BY F. R. ELLIOTT.

LANDSCAPE GARDENER AND HORTICULTURIST.

Here I am, with some of those now come from earth that wrote for the Ploughman some thirty, or more, years since, when it was but a small sized journal, but read by almost every farmer (as it is hope now) in all States and in its columns, a now, had words of value, suggesting thought and ideas for the future.

What I write now I hope will be published and read with benefit to the reader in both its characters.

As I say in my leading here you are near the last of your land culture, and perhaps a few seasons may remind you of what you should practice. I write this late in the season, and suppose if published at all it will come to the reader's eye in November.

A busy month should be left to every fruit grower and farmer. All grounds from which crops have been taken, that are not seeded and expected to be cropped next season, should be manured and ploughed.

In the use of many tools, the composition and association of value with the crop you expect to reap from it, is of the greatest importance. Second to this, look over your grass lands, whether of pasture or hay crop, and of whatever species or mature belongs to the waste thereof. Again, my advice is to buy no advertised seed, unless you know, or ought to know, from the excrements of cities and mingled as every farmer can, from urine, soap, mud, dish water, etc., of his field, and stock of animals, mingled with a little house, lime, sulphur, salt and plaster of Paris. The first and two last named are mainly used. See that your fences are in order.

Do not suffer your cows and other stock to stand out and endure cold storms. If you have no barnyard or shelter, then form a rough fence and surround it with cornstalks or some other item of protection from the severity of the storm and wind. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is a homely but true maxim; preserve, therefore, the healthiness and flesh of your stock, for so doing shall you be rewarded. If your pastures have become short, give, as one of the cheapest foods and at the same time a good one, a little bran or oat straw and corn meal, mixed with cut straw or hay, or a quart of this with a peck of cut hay will soon add, if given daily, materially to each cow, ox, or horse, etc.

Attend to all little things, such as collecting weeds and placing for litter, raking up the refuse stuff that may be about your grounds. Pick up small brush and chop it fine, then mix it with a compost manure heap, or place it to rot on your vineyard, where it will be of use to you.

The manure heap compost I hope every reader of this, who is farmer or gardener, will have formed. Above all things keep yourself employed, and do not sit down, thinking that because the harvest is over, the work is done, and you are idle.

Remember that the winter is a time when you need them, and will be getting richer, and a nail in time will often save two dollars from the charges of a carpenter. So with the siding of your house. Examine the roof and see if it is in good order. If it is not, it is a pity to wait until it is too late to do it. Nine chances to one that such is the case, and if you do not now attend to it, a leak will occur, and the rafters and plate will be decayed from standing water.

Land drains can also be done at this season when the outlet has been provided during drier weather so that the small drains will not work wet. Before the ground is frozen, the plough should be run to loosen the surface, and if the first six inches of surface soil is then thrown out and a subsoil plough run in the trench the digging can be continued until very severe frosts. The bottom of the ditch will be covered with the soil plough is kept going over it. Such jobs as these can often be done better in winter than at any other season, for the reason that the owner can give them personal attention, being less occupied with other business, and also because the soil is so soft that the work can be done with less labor and cost considerably less.

Top dressing of grass land and the manuring of land intended for corn or any other crop next year can be done to good advantage at this season. The manure should be spread by evaporation at this season of the year, and its valuable parts will be carried down by the rains into the soil where they will be ready to nourish the growing corn. Practice has proved by repeated careful experiments that the manure of a cow or horse, winter or late in the fall, has nearly double the effect upon the next year's crop that the same quantity would produce if applied in the spring.

Fruit trees, raspberry bushes, current bushes and the vegetable garden should be well manured about a liberal dressing now.

Strawberry beds should be covered as soon as the ground freezes enough for a cart to go over them without injury, give them a light covering of evergreen boughs if they can be had, or forest leaves, old grass, sedge or meadow hay.

The tender raspberries, such as the Hudson River Antwerp, Franconia, Brinkley's and some others should have been covered before the ground freezes. The harder kinds can stand the average winter well without covering.

When nothing more urgent remains to be done and Thanksgiving has been heartily celebrated, the farmer should take a walk in the wood for the year's supply should be chopped and corded before deep snow makes it an uncomfortable job.

Leaves may still be gathered as long as the ground is not frozen, and a good stock of them will help make good manure.

Help intended for breeding should be served before Christmas, so as to bring the pigs in April. If earlier than this, the pigs require good warm quarters and more care.

W. D. F.

FORREST MAMBRINO.

There will always be a large demand for stylish carriage horses, buggy horses and speedy steppers for driving purposes—a demand that is scarcely second in importance to any other department of horse-breeding. On this we give an admirable illustration of the fine young stallion Forrest Mambrino—a horse that comes of the best blood for carriage qualities, speed and various useful purposes is justly renowned. His breeding shows a rare mingling of the blood of the famous American stallion Chief and Edwin Forrest, both of whom were remarkable for size, beauty, style and good temper, to say nothing of the remarkable quality of speed which their descendants have shown. He is a bright bay, plump, dainty, handsome, and weighs about eleven hundred pounds. He has been in the stud two years and proved himself a good sire. He is the property of Frank H. Dunton, Esq., of The Spirit of the Turf, in Chicago, Ill.

SWISS CATTLE.

Mr. J. F. Leach of Bridgewater, who was a purchaser of several cows and a bull at Mr. Aldrich's sale at Worcester recently, has also added to his purchase the four fine cows bid off at the Aldrich sale by Mr. E. C. Winters of Buffalo, N. Y., making a herd of six cows and a bull, viz., "Lucerna," imported, "Edel," "Estelle," "Minnie," "Independence," "Rilla," "bull," "Harry Tall." This makes the finest herd of this rare breed of cattle in New England.

THE POULTRY INTEREST.

"PLYMOUTH ROCK" FOWLS.

This fine breed of domestic poultry, which has been steadily growing in favor among farmers and small poultrymen, for a few years, has now come to be a general favorite.

For several years after their original introduction, the Plymouth Rock fowls were not much known, but now they are everywhere.

When last I visited the farm of Mr. Thomas Bates, who first introduced the Plymouth Rock fowls, I found that the breeders had been very successful.

A singular fact has been demonstrated in the instance of the "Plymouth Rocks." It is known that this race is a cross of the Black Astor (or Java) with the Dominique variety. For several years after their original introduction, the Plymouth Rock fowls were not much known, but now they are everywhere.

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